

24. (thrice amended) A medical diagnostic ultrasound catheter for imaging from within a body, the catheter comprising:

- a shaft;
- an ultrasound transducer connected within the shaft; and
- a dielectric solid film positioned between a portion of the shaft and the ultrasound transducer, wherein the dielectric surrounds at least a portion of a circumference and one end of the ultrasound transducer, the dielectric solid film having a thickness less than 7 microns.

Please cancel claims 18 and 27.

REMARKS

The amendments to the rewritten claims 15 and 24 are shown in the attached Appendix where underlining indicates additions.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 15, 21-24 and 44 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Crowley et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,951,677). Claims 1-9, 29-36 and 48 were allowed. Claims 16-20 and 25-28 were objected to as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections for the reasons discussed below.

Claim 15 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 18. Since claim 18 was indicated as being allowable if rewritten to include the limitations of claim 15, claim 15 is allowable. Likewise, claim 24 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 27. Since claim 27 was indicated as being allowable if rewritten to include the limitations of claim 24, claim 24 is allowable. The dependent claims 21-23 and 44 are allowable for the same reasons as well as limitations of the dependent claims. Applicant previously characterized claim 44 as requiring film on both ends, but upon review believe the claim requires film on one end.

Claims 15 and 24 prior to the amendments herein may be pursued in a continuation application.

Conclusion:

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and seeks early allowance thereof. If for any reason, the Examiner is unable to allow the application but believes that an interview would be helpful to resolve any issues, he

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is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at (650) 694-5810 or Craig Summerfield at (312) 321-4726.

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APPENDIX

J1

15. (fourth amendment) A medical diagnostic ultrasound catheter for imaging from within a body, the catheter comprising:

- a shaft;
- an ultrasound transducer connected with the shaft;
- a lens adjacent the ultrasound transducer, the lens having a focus; and
- a dielectric solid film adjacent the ultrasound transducer, the dielectric solid film comprising a polyester film

J2

19. (amended) The catheter of Claim [18] 15 wherein the polyester film comprises Mylar.

J3

24. (thrice amended) A medical diagnostic ultrasound catheter for imaging from within a body, the catheter comprising:

- a shaft;
- an ultrasound transducer connected within the shaft; and
- a dielectric solid film positioned between a portion of the shaft and the ultrasound transducer, wherein the dielectric surrounds at least a portion of a circumference and one end of the ultrasound transducer, the dielectric solid film having a thickness less than 7 microns.

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